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General and complete disarmament

Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures

Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them

The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

Report of the Secretary General

Summary

The present report describes activities undertaken by States and regional and subregional organizations to consolidate peace through practical disarmament measures.

It also summarizes the activities undertaken at the national, regional and subregional levels by the United Nations, and by States and organizations that are in a position to do so, to provide assistance to States in their efforts to curb the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and in collecting and disposing of them.

In addition, it provides an overview of the implementation, by the United Nations system and Member States, of General Assembly resolution 64/50, on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, including the work of the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

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During the reporting period, there was heightened recognition, at the global level, of the importance of assessing the effectiveness of assistance provided to States in the area of small arms. Significantly, this issue was also noted in the outcome document of the Fourth Biennial Meeting, which was adopted by consensus. The meeting was held at New York from 14 to 18 June 2010.

Acknowledgement that the issue of small arms and light weapons must be addressed through a wider, multisectoral lens is found in diverse, related processes such as discussions on an arms trade treaty and initiatives on armed violence and development.

The present report covers the period from August 2009 to July 2010, except for the section on consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures, which covers the period from August 2008 to July 2010.

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I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 63/62, entitled "Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures", the General Assembly welcomed the activities undertaken by the Group of Interested States in Practical Disarmament Measures, as well as the synergies within the multi-stakeholder process, including Governments, the United Nations system, regional and subregional organizations and institutions as well as non-governmental organizations in support of practical disarmament measures and the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.[1] The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit, at its sixty-fifth session, a report on the implementation of practical disarmament measures, taking into consideration the activities of the Group of Interested States in this regard.

2. By its resolution 64/30, entitled "Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them", the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General and those States and organizations that are in a position to do so to continue to provide assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them and, to this end, encouraged cooperation among State organs, international organizations and civil society in support of programmes and projects. The resolution also requested the Secretary-General to continue to consider the matter and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session.

3. By its resolution 64/50, entitled "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects", the General Assembly called upon all Member States to contribute towards the continued implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects at the national, regional and global levels. It also called upon all States to implement the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (the International Tracing Instrument)[2] and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution.

4. The present report is submitted pursuant to the requests made by the General Assembly in the above-mentioned resolutions. To enable a coherent approach to these overlapping and interconnected issues, the three resolutions are addressed together.

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[1] *See Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9-20 July 2001* (A/CONF.192/15), chap. IV, para. 24.

[2] A/60/88 and Corr. 2, annex; see also General Assembly decision 60/519.

II. Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures; Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them; and implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

A. United Nations system

1. The Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission

5. The Security Council discusses small arms in relation to thematic issues that have implications for peace and security, such as the protection of civilians in armed conflicts; women, and peace and security; and children in armed conflict. The Council has repeatedly noted with concern the changing character of war and conflict, which threatens the protection of such vulnerable groups as women and children. The uncontrolled proliferation of small arms and light weapons, with their relatively easy operability, has exacerbated this trend and has led to serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. In a number of country resolutions, the Council has raised its concerns about the detrimental impact of the proliferation of small arms on the security of civilians.

6. Arms embargoes constitute the Security Council's principal instrument for curbing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. The uncontrolled circulation of small arms and their massive use in conflict and non-conflict settings impedes the actions undertaken or supported by the Security Council to enhance security and development. This is particularly significant in such areas as humanitarian aid, violence and crime prevention, protection of the rights of children and youth, peacekeeping, economic development, public health, good governance, human rights and the countering of organized crime and terrorism.

7. The Peacebuilding Commission focuses on marshalling resources and advising on and proposing integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery. As the Commission is tasked with overseeing the transition of countries from conflict to sustainable development, it might be useful to further increase efforts to address small arms control issues in its country-specific configurations, in particular since levels of small arms in circulation tend to be highest in countries emerging from conflict.

Activities undertaken on the issue of small arms and light weapons

8. Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, the Security Council maintains a number of sanctions committees to enforce arms embargoes. An important part of sanctions regimes is to prohibit States and non-State actors from supplying arms and related materiel, and from providing related technical training or assistance to States, non-State actors, regions, individuals or entities. Experts groups or panels, mandated by the Security Council to monitor the implementation of arms embargoes in respective States on the ground, carry out their mandate through on-site visits, and the inspection of and investigation into suspected shipments and the use of arms and ammunition by both Government forces and private actors.

9. During the reporting period, such experts groups reported continued trafficking of arms, including small arms and light weapons, through various means and channels, including land, air and sea, to the States under arms embargoes. Experts groups highlighted the following as sources of arms and ammunition acquisition by non-Government forces: leakage of government stocks from both targeted States and neighbouring States; the sale of arms by corrupt Government officials; battlefield acquisition of arms and ammunition; and deliberate attacks against military and police individuals, convoys and static positions.

10. The experts groups have made a number of recommendations to improve respective sanctions regimes; many of which correspond to the issues identified under the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument. The recommendations include the improvement of marking for imported arms in Liberia; enhanced, preferably computerized, record-keeping in Liberia; the destruction of surplus weapons, effective tracing of weapons and sharing of information in Somalia; and enhanced stockpile management in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

11. In its country-specific efforts, the Peacebuilding Commission continued to include small arms-related measures in its work. For example, the Commission's mission to Burundi recommended the adoption of legislation pertaining to small arms and light weapons and the regulation of arms during the election period. Such measures could have a stabilizing effect in post-conflict situations and could potentially be emulated in other post-conflict scenarios.

2. General Assembly

Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

12. The Organization's main instrument for addressing illicit trafficking in small arms is the Programme of Action, adopted in 2001. The Programme of Action sets out a comprehensive framework for a coordinated international response to the problems associated with small arms and light weapons. It establishes international norms and measures to address the small arms issue, and aims to promote its responsible implementation by States. The implementation of the Programme of Action is reviewed biennially through meetings of States, and will be further reviewed by an open-ended meeting of governmental experts in 2011 and a review conference in 2012.

Fourth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

13. The Fourth Biennial Meeting of States to consider the national, regional and global implementation of the Programme of Action was held at New York, from 14 to 18 June 2010. The meeting of States also considered the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument, adopted in 2005. The meeting adopted its report by consensus. The "way forward" sections in the outcome document of the meeting highlight measures that can be undertaken for the further implementation of the Programme of Action.

14. Consideration of the implementation of the Programme of Action was conducted through discussions centred around the following four themes: border

management, international cooperation and assistance, the International Tracing Instrument and follow-up mechanisms within the Programme of Action. Under "border management", States underscored the need to enhance cooperation among national institutions and to integrate adequate procedures for the prevention of the illicit arms trade in their border control mechanisms. They also recommended convening regional meetings of their relevant law enforcement authorities. Under "international cooperation and assistance", States were encouraged to consider ways to assess the effectiveness of cooperation and assistance, thereby introducing the topic of aid effectiveness in the Programme of Action. Also, States encouraged intensified efforts to identify matches between requests for assistance and available resources. Under the International Tracing Instrument, States highlighted the important role international cooperation and assistance plays in the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument, including: training and capacity-building; strengthening of the legal and administrative framework and inter-agency cooperation; and the provision of technology, such as marking machines. States also welcomed the contribution of civil society and industry to the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument. Under "follow-up mechanisms", suggestions for further action included a comprehensive assessment of progress under the Programme of Action in the ten years following its adoption, as an input to the 2012 review conference.

Activities undertaken on the Implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs

15. In the outcome document of the Third Biennial Meeting of States on the Programme of Action, held in July 2008, States stressed the importance of regional approaches to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the usefulness of convening regional meetings sponsored by interested States and international, regional and subregional organizations in a position to do so, in particular in the years between biennial meetings. States also welcomed a coordinating role by the United Nations, where needed, in setting up such regional meetings.[3] In this connection, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs organized a meeting for States of the Latin American and Caribbean region in Lima (March 2010); a meeting for States of the South-east Asian region in Bali, Indonesia (March 2010); and a meeting for States of the Central African region in Kinshasa (April 2010).[4] At these meetings, States of the respective regions held in-depth discussions on strengthening regional implementation of the Programme of Action, and provided input to the preparation of the fourth Biennial Meeting of States. Progress was also made to elaborate the assistance needs of requesting States with a view to matching needs with resources as mandated in the Outcome Document of the third Biennial Meeting of States.[5]

[3] A/CONF.192/BMS/2008/3, para. 24, sect. I, para. 6.

[4] Similar meetings were held for States of the Pacific region in Sydney and for States in Southern Africa, the Great Lakes region and the Horn of Africa and bordering States, in Kigali in June and July 2009 respectively. The meetings in 2009 and 2010 were made possible by the following contributors: Austria, France, Japan, Norway and Switzerland; and the following host countries: Australia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, Peru and Rwanda (see A/64/173).

[5] A/CONF.192/BMS/2008/3, para. 24, sect. I, para. 3.

16. In an effort to further promote the International Tracing Instrument, the United Nations and the Czech Republic, in collaboration with INTERPOL and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), organized a capacity-building workshop on the Instrument for ECOWAS States in Prague in September 2009. The workshop was attended by representatives from Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo, and included discussions on the technical aspects of marking and tracing small arms. The participants also exchanged national experiences on the implementation of measures to curb illicit flows of small arms, and made field visits to weapons and ammunition factories.

Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate

17. The adoption by consensus, at the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States, of a way forward on the issue of border management strengthens the work already undertaken by some United Nations entities in this area. Partnerships continue to be developed between United Nations agencies, such as the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, and international and regional specialized organizations, including INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization, in order to promote relevant norms and practices for the control of weapons.

18. Together with the African Union's African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, the Executive Directorate organized a workshop on enhancing the capacity of West African Member States in the areas of customs, border control and arms trafficking, which was held in March 2010 in Algiers.[6] Representatives of seven States of the region and INTERPOL attended the meeting.

19. In July 2010, the Executive Directorate held a workshop on challenges to effective border control capacity-building in East Africa, which addressed the import, export and transit through customs of small arms, ammunition and explosives, with a view to putting in place measures to prevent smuggling. The strengthening of implementation measures with regard to arms embargoes imposed by the Security Council was also discussed.

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

20. During the reporting period, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) continued to focus on the issue of assistance to States regarding small arms programming. In June 2010, it published a book entitled *Searching for Aid Effectiveness in Small Arms Assistance*, which assesses existing aid effectiveness frameworks, namely the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action, and explores their applicability to assistance in the field of small arms and light weapons.

21. Within the reporting time frame, the Institute also completed its checklist, entitled "Implementing the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms: a checklist for matching needs and resources", which is a web-based tool designed to help States identify the types of assistance they may require to address the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.[7]

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[6] Made possible by a contribution from Germany.

[7] See www.poa-iss.org/matching.

International Civil Aviation Organization

22. The Aviation Security Panel of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), which comprises experts nominated by Member States and representatives of the aviation industry, continues to examine the issue of new and emerging threats, including the threat posed by man-portable air defence systems. The Aviation Security Panel is currently in the process of finalizing an information and airport vulnerability assessment guide on the systems, which is intended to assist Member States in developing a strategy to establish security countermeasures in response to the current and the potential threat posed by such systems. Once finalized, this document will be made available to authorized personnel within States through the ICAO secure website.

The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects: broader initiatives related to the Programme of Action

23. The subject of small arms is at the nexus of intersecting policy issues, including trade, security, development, humanitarian assistance, human rights, organized crime and public health. Hence, there is a need for a broad, multisectoral approach to deal with this matter. This necessity is explicitly acknowledged in the Programme of Action by its framing of the issue of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons "in all its aspects". At the same time, other processes within the United Nations also address the small arms issue in wider contexts.

(a) Arms trade treaty

24. While discussions on an arms trade treaty constitute a distinctive, stand-alone process, they are driven by concerns about the impact of unregulated trade in conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons, on development, human rights and security. A set of commonly agreed international standards for the transfer of conventional arms would specifically address challenges relating to the unregulated trade of conventional arms in terms of their diversion to the illicit market (see A/RES/64/48, twelfth preambular paragraph). Negotiations on an arms trade treaty will be undertaken within the framework of preparatory committee sessions in 2010 and 2011, with a United Nations conference on the arms trade treaty planned for 2012.

(b) Activities undertaken on the issue of an arms trade treaty

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

25. Between February 2009 and July 2010, the Institute implemented its first project on an arms trade treaty, funded by the European Union. The project consisted mainly of six regional seminars in different parts of the world (see www.unidir.org). The project facilitated the exchange of views among Member States, regional organizations and civil society on the different aspects of the treaty. In 2010 and 2011, the Institute will organize a second series of regional events.

26. The Institute also organized other activities in support of an arms trade treaty, including several seminars in Geneva, and a symposium in Cairo, in collaboration with the League of Arab States, in June 2010.

(c) Armed violence and development

27. Armed violence has increasingly been analysed in terms of its economic and social cost to society. Growing recognition that armed violence represents a fundamental challenge to many developmental and humanitarian goals, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, has led to recent States-led initiatives, such as the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, which was adopted in June 2006, and the adoption of the Oslo Commitments on Armed Violence in May 2010. These initiatives offer important road maps to addressing the major threat posed by armed violence and conflict to human security and to the hard-won Millennium Development Goal gains (A/64/665, para. 45).

28. Within the United Nations system, a number of entities are now collaborating within the inter-agency Armed Violence Prevention Programme, which aims to promote effective responses to armed violence through the provision of substantive support to the development of international policies and nationally led comprehensive armed violence prevention programmes.

29. The upcoming High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, which will be held in September 2010, will provide an excellent opportunity to emphasize how consistent engagement by States in the prevention and reduction of armed violence can be an effective component in efforts to alleviate poverty and to achieve the Goals.

(d) Activities undertaken on armed violence and development

30. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) co-organized a regional workshop on "Youth and armed violence in Africa" in Nairobi in December 2009. The workshop aimed at engaging youth leaders and promoting actions to reduce youth involvement in armed violence in Africa. Leaders and activists of youth organizations, as well as Government officials working on youth issues from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania, participated in the workshop.

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

31. Since 2006, the Security Needs Assessment Protocol project of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research has developed an innovative "best process" approach to local programme design in support of work done on armed violence and development. Its purpose is to assist United Nations operational agencies to better generate local cultural knowledge on programming on peace, security and development and to apply that knowledge to programming goals through novel design processes. This pilot project addresses the evident gaps between universal best practices and local field-level realities by placing local project design at the forefront of attention. A pilot is now being completed on children's issues and community-level programming in post-conflict Nepal to help implement the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and consolidate the peace.[8]

[8] www.unidir.org/bdd/fiche-activite.php?ref_activite=337

3. United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms

32. The cross-cutting nature of the impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons underscores the importance of coordination on the small arms issue within the United Nations system. To meet this challenge, the United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism (CASA), was established as the Secretary-General's coordination platform within the United Nations. The CASA mechanism now brings together 22 United Nations system partners that deal with preventing violence and mitigating the impact of small arms and light weapons on societies, communities and individuals from their particular angle. United Nations system partners assist Member States and regional organizations with their implementation of the Programme of Action.

33. The CASA mechanism covers not only the Programme of Action and its International Tracing Instrument, but also other global small arms-related agreements, including the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition (Firearms Protocol) supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. It is also the coordinating body within the United Nations on the arms trade treaty.

34. During the reporting period, the CASA mechanism achieved broader participation within the United Nations system. It strengthened its coordination role in the area of small arms culminating in the endorsement of its strategic framework for 2009-2013.

Activities undertaken within the United Nations Coordination Action on Small Arms mechanism

Developing International Small Arms Control Standards

35. In recent years, the United Nations system has been successful in setting technical standards in such specific thematic areas as mine action and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. The CASA mechanism's current flagship initiative is the development of International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS). The aim is to develop a set of internationally accepted and validated technical standards that provide comprehensive guidance to practitioners and policymakers on legal, policy and operational issues surrounding small arms control. Twenty-six ISACS modules have been drafted and opened as public consultation drafts available online at www.un-casa-isacs.org. The ISACS project will continue into 2011.

Programme of Action Implementation Support System

36. The CASA mechanism has enhanced its capacity for information sharing since the Programme of Action Implementation Support System was launched in July 2008 (see www.poa-iss.org). This is an evolving web-based comprehensive information tool that serves as a one-stop shop for providing information on all elements directly relevant to the implementation of the Programme of Action. In the outcome document of the fourth Biennial meeting of States,[9] States welcomed the further development of the Implementation Support System, including a new

[9] Official document to be issued shortly.

web-based template for States to use when reporting on their implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

37. In the outcome document of the Third Biennial Meeting of States, States underlined that the value of assistance proposals in the field of small arms would be enhanced if they were formulated as concrete projects with measurable goals and posted on the Implementation Support System.[10] As a follow-up to this, an online tool developed by the Institute to assist States in identifying their assistance needs has been integrated into the implementation support system. Furthermore, a compilation of national assistance proposals from Member States submitted through their 2010 national reports on the Programme of Action was recently prepared by the United Nations[11] as a further step to improving the matching of needs and resources for international cooperation, assistance and national capacity-building in the area of small arms and light weapons. This initiative was also welcomed by States at the Fourth Biennial Meeting.

Developing international ammunition technical guidelines

38. To effectively combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, it is crucial that the issue of the diversion of small arms and light weapons ammunition into illicit markets also be addressed.

39. One of the main origins of ammunition diversion is the lack of sound management of ammunition stockpiles, either through neglect, lack of resources or corruption. States that do not effectively manage their national stockpiles are unable to monitor the quality and quantity of their stored conventional ammunition. These States are therefore also unable to effectively address the safety and security of these ammunition stockpiles.

40. In 2008, the report of a United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on the issue recommended that technical guidelines for the stockpile management of conventional ammunition be developed within the United Nations and made available for use by States on a voluntary basis (see A/63/182, para. 72). The report of the Group was welcomed by all Member States (see General Assembly resolution 63/61). Under the auspices of the CASA mechanism, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, together with the United Nations Mine Action Service and other partner agencies have undertaken to develop and implement international ammunition technical guidelines. Full completion and validation of the guidelines is expected at the end of 2010.

4. Group of Interested States in Practical Disarmament Measures

41. General Assembly resolution 51/45N, entitled "Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures" focused attention on the fact that, in most conflict and post-conflict environments, questions of control of small arms and light weapons, demining, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants are increasingly crucial to effective conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation. By establishing the Group of Interested States in Practical Disarmament Measures, Member States were able to look for ways to provide concrete assistance to those who live in post-conflict situations, to prevent a recurrence of crisis situations and

[10] A/CONF.192/BMS/2008/3, para. 24, sect. I, para. 6.

[11] Available from www.poa-iss.org/bms4/.

help construct a new environment of durable peace. Meetings of the Group are open to all States, interested United Nations partners and relevant non-governmental organizations.

42. During the reporting period, the Group held six meetings: December 2008, January 2009, March 2009, October 2009, February 2010 and March 2010.[12] Specific agenda items for these meetings included the preparation of the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States; discussions on an arms trade treaty; briefings on the First Committee of the General Assembly; and a presentation on the International Small Arms Control Standards. In October 2009, the Group and the Geneva Process on small arms co-organized a joint meeting in New York to discuss the preparations for the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States.

B. Activities undertaken at the regional and subregional levels within and outside the United Nations system

Africa

43. During the reporting period, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa contributed substantively to the development of an African Union strategy to control small arms. The Centre represented the United Nations in the African Union-Regions Small Arms Steering Committee. The Centre also developed cooperative relations with African subregional organizations, notably the East African Community, the Economic Community of Central African States, ECOWAS, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the Regional Centre on Small Arms, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization.

44. In Central Africa, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, in cooperation with the Economic Community of Central African States, was tasked to help draft the Central Africa Convention on the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition, Parts and Components that can be used for their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly (Kinshasa Convention), which was adopted at the thirtieth ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa in April 2010. In West Africa, the Centre provided assistance to States in harmonizing their legislation with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition, and Other Related Materials and is developing a database on national small arms-related legislation, in cooperation with ECOWAS.

45. In parallel with the UNIDIR series of seminars funded by the European Union (see para. 25 above), the Centre co-organized regional seminars on an arms trade treaty for Central, Northern and Western Africa in Lomé, in April 2009, together with the West African Action Network on Small Arms and the International Action Network on Small Arms. It co-organized another for Eastern and Southern Africa in Addis Ababa in December 2009, together with the International Action Network on Small Arms and Oxfam.

[12] Facilitated by Germany.

46. In East Africa, the Centre worked with the Regional Centre on Small Arms to build the capacity of States to identify brokers and developed software for States to register brokers and brokering licences electronically. In Southern Africa, the Centre initiated a partnership with SADC and the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization, to identify areas of assistance needed by States. Building the capacities of national commissions on small arms and of parliamentarians was also an important aspect of the Centre's work. In addition, it hosted workshops to engage civil society organizations in the arms trade treaty process and to further the establishment of subregional civil society networks.[13]

47. The East African Community reported that, to date, 20,000 arms have been marked in the region and 120,000 publicly destroyed, in part to facilitate the effective implementation of the International Tracing Instrument. Furthermore, since 2010 was designated by the African Union as the "Year of Peace for Africa", the Community held events to reaffirm the commitment of the region to the eradication of illicit arms and to mobilize communities to support law enforcement agencies (see www.eac.int).

48. ECOWAS reported that to date, through the work of the ECOWAS Small Arms Control Programme, 13 out of 15 States members have established national commissions on small arms, while the remaining two States are making progress in transforming their focal committees into national commissions. It was reported that the ECOWAS Small Arms Control Programme also provided ECOWAS States with such border control equipment as seaport and airport scanners, weapons detection and communication equipment and training.

49. At the same time, the Programme reported having sponsored community-level armed violence reduction projects in Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Mali and Senegal. It also supported arms collection and destruction activities in Ghana and Niger. It was reported that 11 out of 15 States have ratified the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition, and Other Related Materials, which entered into force on 29 September 2009. As a follow-up, a plan of action for the implementation of the ECOWAS Convention for the period 2011 to 2015 was adopted at the sixty-fourth session of the council of ministers held from 31 May to 1 June 2010, in Abuja (see www.ecosap.ecowas.int).

50. The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region reported that, in partnership with the Regional Centre on Small Arms, small arms and light weapons electronic marking machines and training for officers on arms marking were provided to the Central African Republic, the Republic of the Congo and Zambia, with the aim to strengthen the stockpile management and tracing of small arms and light weapons. It was reported that, in collaboration with the Institute for Security Studies of South Africa, studies on disarmament of armed pastoralist communities in the Karamoja Cluster, which consists of the border areas of Ethiopia, Kenya, the Sudan and Uganda, were concluded in April 2010. Community awareness and outreach programmes along the Karamoja Cluster were also reported to be ongoing (see www.icglr.org).

51. The Regional Centre on Small Arms reported that it continues to coordinate efforts of its States members in addressing the effective control of arms transfers

[13] See www.unrec.org and www.un.org/disarmament/HomePage/ODAPublications/Yearbook/index.shtml.

within and outside the subregion, including in collaboration with the African Union, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and other civil society organizations in Africa. On a legislative and policy level, the Regional Centre on Small Arms reported that it is developing "best practice guidelines on practical disarmament" with support from the Government of Japan.

52. On a technical level, it was reported that 31 arms marking units have been distributed to 12 Regional Centre on Small Arms States members and that, to date, 72,612 firearms have been marked in Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda, with a view to improving the traceability, accountability and stockpile inventory management of firearms. Lastly, it was also reported that a public awareness campaign held between August and October 2009 in Burundi resulted in the voluntary surrender of 2,594 firearms, 12,820 grenades, 540 bombs and 38 landmines as at 30 March 2010 (see www.recsasec.org).

53. The Southern African Development Community reported that its States members continued to implement joint arms collection and destruction operations and that new, more stringent arms and ammunition legislation was passed. It was also reported that Malawi's initiative to establish "millennium development villages" was an endeavour to integrate armed violence reduction and development programming. It was also highlighted that civil society across the SADC region continues to play a role in the combating of illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

54. The Southern African Development Community reported that, in 2010, through cooperation with the East African Community, Government officials from Kenya visited South Africa to share lessons learned and best practices in the areas of stockpile management and destruction. Progress was also reported on the harmonization of national firearms licence databases which would be a cornerstone for the successful implementation of the International Tracing Instrument (see www.sadc.int).

Americas

55. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean continued to assist Member States (Bolivia, Colombia, Panama and Peru) in training their law enforcement officers, utilizing the Centre's improved inter-institutional training course for combating the illicit trade in firearms, ammunition and explosives. The Centre also organized a subregional training course for law enforcement officers from Central American States in San José in March 2010. The Centre provided assistance to eight Caribbean States to strengthen their capacity to improve stockpile management and to carry out the destruction of firearms.[14]

56. The Centre also provided legal and policy support to four Andean States, with the aim of strengthening the implementation of national firearms legislation and their harmonization with international instruments, as well as inter-agency coordination mechanisms. In carrying out these activities, it worked in cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, reinforcing their capacity to provide assistance to States in the region.

[14] Bahamas, Belize, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.

57. The Centre also organized or co-organized a total of four regional and subregional seminars or workshops on small arms-related issues throughout the region. These workshops were mainly aimed at further raising awareness about reducing and preventing armed violence and strengthening civil society's role in combating illicit firearms.[15]

58. The Centre is currently undertaking a comparative study on armed violence on school premises in Latin America and the Caribbean, the first study of its kind in this region by United Nations agencies and leading non-governmental organizations dealing with small arms and light weapons.

59. The Organization of American States (OAS) reported that its General Secretariat initiated the strengthening of the national capacity of 30 Governments of the region to mark imported or confiscated firearms, as well as the marking of firearms at the point of manufacture.[16] It is envisaged that at least one marking machine will be provided for each of the 30 States of the region. In the context of this initiative, OAS is also preparing a study to identify and analyse national firearms marking legislation in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as current marking processes and practices in the region.

60. The Organization reported that it launched a programme to strengthen the capacity of Central American countries to manage their stockpiles and destroy surplus firearms and ammunition. Through this project, Guatemala and Nicaragua received assistance for the destruction of obsolete ammunition, in order to prevent large-scale accidents in urban areas. The project has contributed to the destruction of over 150 tons of ammunition. Training in destruction techniques of arms and ammunition will also be held for experts from Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Panama.

61. The Organization reported collaborating on small arms-related issues with the Central American Integration System small arms control division, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and civil society and industry by exchanging information and experiences.

62. The States members of OAS adopted the Declaration of Lima: Peace, Security and Cooperation in the Americas at the fortieth regular session of the OAS General Assembly, held in June 2010. OAS States members reaffirmed their commitment to promote transparency in arms acquisitions, in accordance with pertinent United Nations and OAS resolutions (see www.oas.org).

63. The Central American Integration System reported that it focused on creating a national project for the collection of small arms and is promoting training and small arms control. Through its Central American Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Programme best practices project, it is seeking to improve its own capacity and that of States members in responding to the threat posed by illicit small arms and light weapons.[17]

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[15] See www.unlirec.org and www.un.org/disarmament/HomePage/ODAPublications/Yearbook/index.shtml.

[16] Funded by the United States of America.

[17] www.sica.int/index_en.aspx.

Asia and the Pacific

64. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific organized a regional seminar for East and South-east Asian States in February 2010 in Bangkok, to discuss ways and means to enhance international and regional cooperation on combating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons. The Centre worked closely with civil society organizations in the region and supported their efforts to address the issue of illicit small arms. At a regional meeting on peace and security in South Asia and on priorities for regional cooperation on small arms and light weapons control, held in November 2009 at Dhaka, the Centre shared its experience and expertise in the implementation of the Programme of Action in South Asia and promoted cooperation among regional actors. The Centre also initiated a series of discussion forums in Kathmandu on promoting disarmament efforts in Nepal, focusing on illicit small arms and gun violence.[18]

Europe

65. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) reported that its participating States committed themselves to establishing or reinforcing a legal framework for brokering activities within their national jurisdictions by the end of 2010, with a review of the implementation of that decision to take place by September 2011. The Organization also reported that, on the basis of a list of the minimum elements that an end-use certificate should contain, OSCE participating States exchanged sample end-use certificates, on a restricted website, to facilitate the authentication process by national authorities.

66. In May 2010, the OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation adopted a decision on an OSCE plan of action on small arms and light weapons, the implementation of which will be subject to review by May 2012. Measures agreed upon under the action plan include more rigorous monitoring of the implementation of agreed norms and active assistance through targeted projects; possible expansion of the scope and strengthening of export and brokering controls; and facilitating the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument.

67. The Organization reported that other recent projects on small arms and light weapons include the destruction of over 300 man-portable air defence systems in Cyprus; the organization of a comprehensive programme in Tajikistan to strengthen national capacity on small arms and conventional ammunition; conventional ammunition control and anti drug-trafficking; and the initiation of the finalizing phase of a capacity-building project, organized jointly with the United Nations Development Programme, which is aimed at enhancing small arms and light weapons stockpile management and security in Belarus (see www.osce.org).

III. Observations and conclusions

68. During the reporting period, there was heightened recognition, at the global level, of the importance of assessing the effectiveness of assistance provided to States in the area of small arms. Significantly, this issue was also noted in the

[18] See www.unrcpd.org.np and www.un.org/disarmament/HomePage/ODAPublications/Yearbook/index.shtml

outcome document of the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States, which was adopted by consensus.

69. Acknowledgement that the issue of small arms and light weapons must be addressed through a wider, multisectoral lens is found in diverse, related processes, such as discussions on an arms trade treaty and initiatives on armed violence and development.